

October 14, 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC,

So far this year, the morning shows of three Clear Channel Communications radio stations in this country have encouraged violence against cyclists (Houston, Cleveland, and here in Raleigh). The following statements were made on Raleigh station WDCG on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- How fun it is to run cyclists off of the roads, and how cyclists don't deserve to be there.
- One woman called in and said her dad hit a cyclist on purpose on his way to church one morning when she was about 12. She said he just hated bikes being on the road.
- The intern said there is an old man that lives in her neighborhood that shoots a pellet gun at a group of 30 or so that ride by their house. She said he tries to hit their tires to make them crash.
- The host, Bob Dumas, joked of riding a motorcycle down said-proposed bike path just to offend bike riders.
- The hosts, Bob and Madison, egged-on the listeners in support of physically hurting cyclists as a way of telling us they don't want us on the road. The ending shot was Bob, the host, talking about carrying a bunch of empty Yoo-Hoo bottles to pelt offending cyclists with. Once again, more calls rained in from people who agreed with him, and said that they would do the same.

I am primarily a motorist, but I do ride bikes occasionally. As a motorist, I have observed that, while most people drive responsibly, there are a few motorists (teens especially) who are impressionable and subject to reckless driving, especially during moments of road rage. Further encouragement from a radio show personality is only likely to tip one of these drivers over the edge.

Earlier this year, the Cleveland Clear Channel station, WMJI, also raised concerns when their DJs promoted violence against cyclists. As a result, the station issued an apology, donated money to local bike advocacy programs, disciplined two DJs and fired the producer. However, the Raleigh station, WDCG, has only aired public service announcements and suspended the morning show for two days, during which a Clear Channel representative issued a public apology. Be aware that the DJs for this show have been suspended in the past (for indecent programming), and these suspensions do not seem to be having any effect. Bob Dumas so far has refused to air an apology for his recent comments.

Many people have been contacting you regarding Clear Channel's programming. Not only have they been promoting reckless and violent behavior toward cyclists, but their hold on the media market has reduced the programming alternatives that consumers need. In addition, many of their morning shows are out of the bounds of decency. I certainly would not let my elementary school-aged children listen to one of their shows for fear of what they would be learning or repeating to their friends.

Please pay close attention to the programming produced by Clear Channel affiliates and work to ensure that they remain within the bounds of the public interest. Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ted Buckner